

Appln. No. 09/779,560

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~9~~⁴, wherein at least 90% of said glucoamylase activity is inactivated.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~9~~⁴, wherein the medium having a pH of 2.0 or higher is a medium derived from the cultivation of an organism that during its cultivation produces said chymosin activity and said glucoamylase activity.

Claim 7-8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A method for reducing the glucoamylase activity in a milk clotting composition comprising the steps of: ~~according to claim 1,~~

(i) providing a medium having a pH of 2.0 or higher that comprises chymosin activity and glucoamylase activity, wherein the medium having a pH of 2.0 or higher is derived from the cultivation of an organism that is selected from the group consisting of ~~an animal species, a plant species,~~ a bacterial species, a yeast species and a species of filamentous fungi, and

(ii) ~~subjecting said medium to a pH in the range of 1.0 to 1.99 for a period of time sufficient to inactivate at least 50% of said glucoamylase activity while maintaining at least 75% of said chymosin activity.~~

Claim 10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the bacterial species is selected from the group consisting of a gram negative bacterial species and a gram positive species.

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Claim 11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9, where the yeast species is selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, a methylotrophic yeast species and a *Kluveromyces* species.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the species of filamentous fungi is selected from the group consisting of an *Aspergillus* species, a *Cryphonectria* species, a *Fusarium* species, a *Rhizomucor* species and a *Trichoderma* species.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the medium having a pH of 2.0 or higher is subjected to a pH in the range of 1.5 to 1.99.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the medium having a pH of 2.0 or higher is subjected to a pH between 1.7 to 1.99.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the medium having a pH of 2.0 or higher is subjected to a pH of approximately 1.8.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the pH in the range of 1.0 to 1.99 is provided by adding an inorganic or an organic acid.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said period of time is in the range of 0.1 minutes to 48 hours.

Claims 19-28. (Cancelled)

Claim 29. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the organism comprises a gene encoding the chymosin activity that is derived from a mammalian species

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selected from the group consisting of a ruminant species, a *Camelidae* species, a porcine species, an *Equidae* species and a primate species.

Claim 30. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the ruminant species is selected from the group consisting of a bovine species, an ovine species, a caprine species, a deer species, a buffalo species, an antelope species and a giraffe species.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29, wherein the mammalian derived chymosin activity is naturally produced in a mammalian species.

Claims 32-34. (Cancelled)

Claim 35. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the bacterial species is selected from *E. coli* and *Bacillus*.

Claim 36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the yeast species is selected from *Pichia pastoris* and *Kluyveromyces lactis*.

Claims 37-38. (Cancelled)

Claim 39. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29, wherein the *Camelidae* species is *Camelus dromedarius*.

Claims 40-41. (Cancelled)

Claim 42 (Previously presented). The method of claim 12, wherein said *Aspergillus* species is *Aspergillus niger* var. *awamori*.

Claim 43 (Currently amended). The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein at least 85% of the chymosin activity is maintained in step (ii).